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State INR Morning Summary
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3. IRAN: THE TUDEH PARTY SHIFTS ALLIANCES, REAFFIRMS OLD TACTICS

The pro-Soviet Tudeh (communist) party may have strengthened its influence within Iranian leftist circles following splits in other leftist/nationalist groups on the issue of whether to cooperate with the government. The Tudeh has reaffirmed its willingness to form a united national front with Khomeini -- an offer to which Khomeini has, however, responded negatively.

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In recent weeks, there has been a significant amount of maneuvering among Iran's leftist organizations.

--In mid-June, the Fedayeen Al-Khalq, an important leftist organization, publicly announced that it had split into "majority and minority" factions over the issue of whether to support or oppose the government.

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--Concurrently, press reports indicate that the pro-Tudeh faction within the Kurdish Democratic Party (KDP), the principal Kurdish organization, has broken away from the parent organization. This faction is now advocating that the Kurdish problem be solved within a framework of national unity and struggle against US imperialism -- the standard Tudeh party line.

In a June 23 broadcast of the National Voice of Iran, the Tudeh renewed its call for a united front (i.e., Khomeini's acceptance of the Tudeh as a revolutionary partner) to fight US imperialism. In an effort to curry favor with the hardline clerics, the broadcast suggested that a peaceful solution to the Kurdish issue had been thwarted by "a group of imperialist agents" within the government and Kurdish lackeys of the exile movement (i.e., KDP party secretary Qassemlu and Kurdish religious leader Hussein). The reference to "imperialist government agents" parallels recent authoritative Soviet press attacks which have charged Foreign Minister Ghotbzadeh with being a US lackey.

In a June 25 speech, Khomeini personally rejected the Tudeh offer. He warned his countrymen that the leftists were anti-Islamic and were working to undermine the revolution. It seems clear that as long as Khomeini is alive, the clerics will not form a tactical alliance with the left.

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